

W1-73
Disharoon House
Quantico
Private

c. 1857

Located on a large lot in the center of Quantico, the Disharoon house, also known as the Charles E. Rider house, is an unusual example of a mid nineteenth century dwelling which was later remodeled into a bungalow form during the early twentieth century. According to a former owner, Mabel Bailey Disharoon, the house was built in 1857 by Charles E. Rider and his wife Margaret. The initial house was a story-and-a-half, cross-gabled, board-and-batten dwelling trimmed with a picturesque bargeboard trim around the eaves. The inspiration for the design was probably derived from a mid-nineteenth century pattern book, and "Plate X" depicting a "Bracketed Cottage" in A. J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses, bears a close resemblance. A photograph taken before the 1913 remodeling shows the original form of the house.

Ownership of this property is traced back to April 1850 when Charles E. Rider acquired a portion of the tract known as "George Gales Generosity." He owned the property until 1868 and financed construction of the house in 1857 according to tradition. Shortly before his death, Charles E. Rider conveyed the property to William P. Rider, who in turn transferred the house and lot to Margaret L. Rider, who had remarried Daniel H. Murrian. In 1876, the Murrians, who moved to west, sold the Quantico lot and improvements to James C. Freeny, who appears at this location on the 1877 Quantico town map. James C. Freeny was a coach and wagon maker, and he had a shop on the southwest corner of the lot.

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In 1894 James E. and Eliza L. Freeny sold the property to Gerusa A. Bailey, who left the house to her heirs in 1902. In 1913, the other heirs deeded their interests in the property to Mabel Bailey Disharoon, who with her husband, Ira, financed the reworking of the house in 1913 and the installation of the gardens during the 1920s. In 1975, after Mabel Disharoon's death the property was sold out of the family.

HISTORIC CONTEXT INFORMATION

Resource Name: DISHAROON HOUSE AND GARDEN

MHT Inventory Number: WI-73

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA:

- 1) Historic Period Theme(s): ARCHITECTURE
- 2) Geographic Orientation: EASTERN SHORE
- 3) Chronological/Development Period(s):
AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION
1815-1870
- 4) Resource Type(s):
INDUSTRIAL-URBAN DOMINANCE 1870-1930
Single-family dwelling

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WI-73

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic CHARLES E. RIDER HOUSE

and/or common DISHAROON HOUSE AND GARDEN

2. Location

street & number East side of Main Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Quantico ☐ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland county Wicomico

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. James L. McNaughton

street & number P. O. Box 1992 telephone no.:

city, town Salisbury state and zip code MD 21801

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wicomico County Clerk of Court liber 1241

street & number Wicomico County Courthouse folio 847

city, town Salisbury state MD 21803

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Maryland Historic Sites Inventory

date 1972 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Crownsville state MD 21032

7. Description

Survey No. WI-73

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Disharoon house, historically identified as the Charles E. Rider house, stands on the east side of Main Street in the center of Quantico, Wicomico County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces west with the gable roof oriented on a north/south axis.

Dated to around 1850-60, this two-and-a-half story, center hall frame dwelling is supported by a brick pier foundation, and the house is sheathed with a layer of board-and-batten siding. The battens have beveled edges. The steeply pitched gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. Attached to the back of the front block is a story-and-a-half service wing. The house is located on a large lot with mature plantings and a small fish pond. Also standing on the property is a gambrel roofed frame garage and a second house rented to a tenant.

The west (main) elevation is a symmetrical three-bay facade with a center, double-door entrance and flanking twelve-over-twelve sash windows. Framing the window and door openings are wide paneled surrounds with plain corner blocks. The door is surrounded by four-light sidelights and a seven-light transom. Sheltering the first floor is an wide front porch that is covered by an extension of the steeply pitched gable roof. Stout square columns support the porch roof, and a square baluster handrail stretches between the posts. The west slope of the roof is marked by a large center, clipped gable dormer, which is flanked by two smaller clipped gable dormers. The roof of the center dormer extends forward to shelter a small upstairs porch. The inside dormer wall is covered with board-and-batten siding, which frames glazed double doors. The flanking dormers have shingled sides and ten-over-one sash windows.

The north and south gable ends are essentially alike with large size nine-over-six sash windows on the first floor and eight-over-one sash windows on the second floor. The windows have wide banded surrounds with plain corner blocks. There are wide eaves to the house, and interior end chimneys pierce the gables.

The east (rear) elevation of the main block is largely covered by a story-and-a-half two-bay kitchen wing, which has an engaged porch on the north side and an enclosed porch to the south. The roof on each slope is marked by a clipped gable dormer. The east gable end of the kitchen is marked by six-over-six sash windows on the first floor and eight-over-one on the second.

The interior was not fully inspected, but the rooms were generally remodeled during the early twentieth century with brick fireplaces, high paneled wainscoting, and a grid of dark ceiling beams. One of the most significant mid-nineteenth century features is the stair with its rusticated block treatment under the stringer.

8. Significance

Survey No. WI-73

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1857

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on a large lot in the center of Quantico, the Disharoon house, also known as the Charles E. Rider house, is an unusual example of a mid nineteenth century dwelling which was later remodeled into a bungalow form during the early twentieth century. According to a former owner, Mabel Bailey Disharoon, the house was built in 1857 by Charles E. Rider and his wife Margaret. The initial house was a story-and-a-half, cross-gabled, board-and-batten dwelling trimmed with a picturesque bargeboard trim around the eaves. The inspiration for the design was probably derived from a mid-nineteenth century pattern book, and "Plate X" depicting a "Bracketed Cottage" in A. J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses, bears a close resemblance. A photograph taken before the 1913 remodeling shows the original form of the house.

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In 1894 James E. and Eliza L. Freeny sold the property to Gerusa A. Bailey, who left the house to her heirs in 1902. In 1913, the other heirs deeded their interests in the property to Mabel Bailey Disharoon, who with her husband, Ira, financed the reworking of the house in 1913 and the installation of the gardens during the 1920s. In 1975, after Mabel Disharoon's death the property was sold out of the family.

This house deserves listing under Category A, which identifies properties that must be retained: a structure of historic significance and/or exhibiting many good architectural details representative of a period of architectural development and contributing uniquely and superlatively to the character and collective value of the structures within the district.

Survey No. WI-73

PS-2746

Eden, Maryland Quadrangle
1942

QUANTICO
NO 2

QUANTICO RIVER
WICOMICO RIVER
SALVO RIVER

Quantico Forest Fire Lookout Tower
Catchperny
Upper Ferry
Ferry
Stock
Siloam
Pirates
Karoo Whf
Cox Landing
Harcum Cr
Gravel
Simms Whf
Golf
BM 19 Balto
BM 26
BM Y6
BM A8
CAU 42
CAU 43
CAU 44
CAU 45
CAU 46
CAU 47
CAU 48
CAU 49
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CAU 96
CAU 97
CAU 98
CAU 99
CAU 100

1745000 YARDS
1744
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1742
1741
1740

33 34 35

NANTICOKE 12.2 MI
ROYAL OAK 2.5 MI

WI-73
DISHAROON HOUSE AND GARDEN
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title

1241/847 Barbara A. McNaughton
to

12/26/1990 James L. McNaughton
Barbara A. McNaughton

AJS 1033/829 Tony R. Sterling, Jr.
to

4/17/1985 Barbara A. Acworth

AJS 989/442 Hobart B. Hughes, et al
 Victor H. Laws
 to

3/24/1982 Tony R. Sterling, Jr.

AJS 932/643

Tony R. Sterling, Jr.
Margaret T. Sterling

to

11/30/1979 P. David Mills
 Debra Mills

AJS 854/657 Tony R. Sterling, Jr.
to

4/20/1976 Tony R. Sterling, Jr.
Margaret T. Sterling

WI-73
DISHAROON HOUSE AND STORE
Quantico, Maryland
Chain of title continued

Page 3

TT, Jr. 1/230

William P. Rider and wife
Margaret A. Rider

to

4/5/18~~6~~8

Margaret L. Rider (now Margaret L.
Murrian)

\$2,000.00 "George Gales Generosity"

TT, Jr. 1/222

Charles E. Rider
Margaret L. Rider

to

9/1/1868

William P. Rider
\$2,000.00

Somerset County
Land Record
WP 5/327

Samuel B. D. Jones

to

4/--/1850

Charles E. Rider

Somerset County
Land Record

LH 434/435

John F. Collier
Miranda Collier

to

10/23/1840

Samuel B. D. Jones

W1-73

DISHAROON HOUSE (& GARDEN) 2300735504

Quentico

This is a bungalowoid board & batten late 19th century dwelling. The A roof extends over a front porch in the style of several houses in S^W Elbrook Park. In the center of the roof is a small balcony flanked by two multi-panel dormers in the Queen Anne style.

Between the Disharoon House and St. Phillips^(W1-11) is an overgrown garden with Boxwood, Irish Yew, and a small fountain.

Behind the house is another building which appears to be a smaller model of the main house.

WI-73

The Disharoon House and Gardens
in Quantico: a history

Anne Kennerly Morris Clay

WI-73

11/24/75

On the northeasterly side of and binding upon Main Street (Maryland Route # 347) in the village of Quantico in Wicomico County, Maryland, stands a rather unusual dwelling of mixed architectural styles, known as the Disharoon house, after its former owners, Mabel and Ira Disharoon. The property itself was originally part of a larger tract known as "George Gale's Generosity," patented in 1676. ¹ *Deed to same way - 1788 date of acquisition*

The present owners are Peggy and T. R. Sterling of Quantico, who manage the local post office and who bought the property after the death of the above-mentioned Mabel Disharoon. ² If the Sterlings decide to live there, they plan to remodel the back portion of the downstairs into a bedroom, bath, kitchen and breakfast room, thus preserving the rest of the home as it is today.

In 1913, Mabel Bailey Disharoon was deeded the shares in the property of her brothers, Roland J. Bailey, Stephen r. Bailey, and Waller Bailey, the four children having inherited them in 1902 upon the death of their mother, Gerusa Adeline Waller Bailey. ³ Mabel and her husband, Ira, were rather quiet people who never had children and who devoted their lives toward maintenance of the property. ⁴ Between them, they had managed the Quantico Post Office from 1909 until 1949, shortly before Ira's death. ⁵

A number of changes to the building were made by the Disharoons. Eastlake embellishments were added outside, including front and side porches. Newer and more modern dark brick was used to cover the original fireplaces; and some wooden stripping was laid onto the upper walls above the paneling.

In the 1930's, Ira had built the guesthouse in which he stored his collection of Indian relics, Civil War relics, and old coins. Unfortunately, the building was vandalized around ten years ago. ⁶

Various existing photographs made by the Disharoons in 1912 before the additions truly show the charm of the original dwelling.

Of one and one-half stories, the house is built with the boards laid vertically, not horizontally, which style, along with the curved molding around the front gable, gives the house a definite gingerbread effect.

Prior to occupancy by the Disharpoons, the home was inhabited by a Dr. Betson, an M. D. who had his practice at the house. A tenant previous to Dr. Betson had been W. Roy Smith and his family, who lived there until Roy went to Salisbury as sheriff and lived in the jail.

Mabel Disharpoon's parents, Gerusa A. W. and Stephen T. Bailey, had purchased the home for \$950.00 in 1894 from James C. and Eliza R. Freeny.⁷ The Freenys were coachmakers and body-builders and had a carriage shop where the southwest corner of the memorial gardens are. The shop had two stories with a ramp in the back, which had cleats on the ramp so that the coaches wouldn't slip; it was torn down, however, shortly after the Disharpoons acquired the property.⁸

The house itself was probably built during the ownership of Margaret L. Rider Murrian from whom the Freenys bought it in 1876.⁹ The 1877 Atlas of Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties shows a house on the J. C. Freeny lot, which is more or less in the exact position of the present building. Mabel Disharpoon had told Peggy Sterling that the house was built in 1857 by a doctor who took his bride there to live.¹⁰ This story may be somewhat verified in the account given by Mrs. Lillian Sound Bailey, who had married Mabel Disharpoon's brother, Roland, and who is 87 years old. According to her, legend has it that the house was built by Charles Rider for his bride, Margaret L. Rider, who was from the West where there were lots of storms and tornadoes. She wanted a low house as a precaution against any high winds, which explains the one and one-half stories, a very early example of that type structure in the area. In fact, Mrs. Sadie Taylor's house across the street has an identical first-floor plan and was probably built around the same time but features the more traditional two-story design of the Civil War period. In any event, the above-mentioned Margaret supposedly

page 3

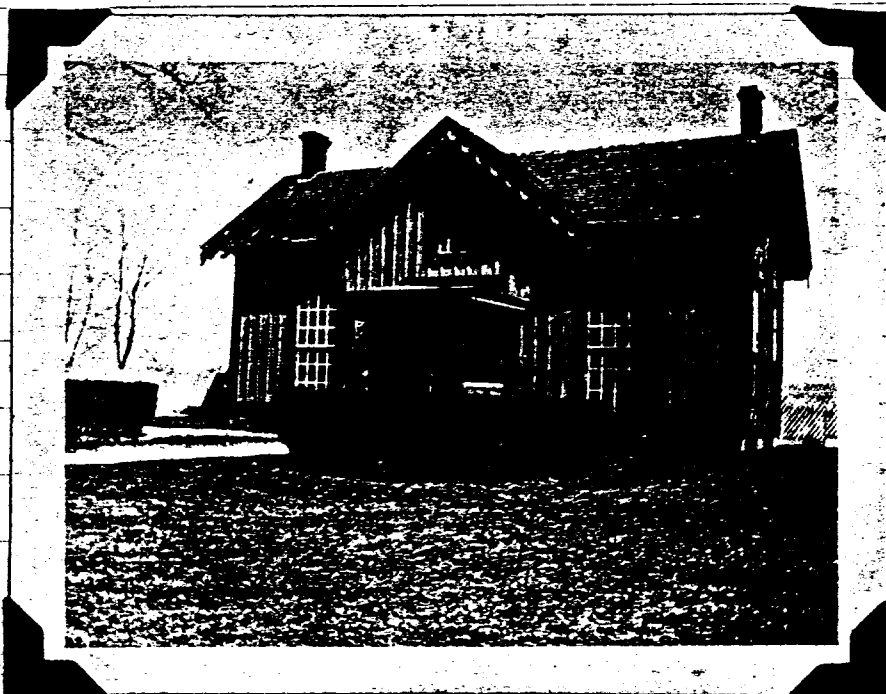
went back out west, which is substantiated by the fact that a certain Margaret Rider Murrian was living in McPherson County, Kansas, in 1878 when the deed conveying her interest in the property and that of her second husband, Daniel H. Murrian or murrain, was recorded in Wicomico County. The aforesaid Charles Rider had originally purchased the land in 1850 and owned it with his wife until 1868 when he conveyed his interest to her,¹² shortly before his death.¹³

Among the most outstanding features of the property are the memorial gardens along the southerly boundary and the various plantings around the house. The gardens were planted around 1926 by the Disharoons as a memorial either to Stephen T. Bailey (Mabel Disharoon's brother who had served in World War I and had died soon thereafter) or to Gerusa Adeline Waller Bailey (said Mabel's mother) and Mary Eleanor Kennerly Disharoon Brady (said Ira's mother.)¹⁴ Through the years, the gardens and plantings were the Disharoon's pride and joy; often the couple could be seen working on the grounds during their midday break from the post office. flowers were planted so that there would be blooms during most of the year: tulips and hyacinths in the spring, zinnias in the summer, and asters in the fall. In front of the house is a circle of boxwood planted before 1913, as were several of the walnuts and maples.¹⁵ From this circle of boxwood, more than 2500 cuttings were rooted and used for edging the borders of the gardens.¹⁶

Since their purchase, the above-mentioned Sterlings have been diligently cleaning the yard and gardens and hauling away by the truckload the debris and brambles which had accumulated over several years. Hopefully, they will be able to restore the gardens to their former beauty and will maintain the Disharoon house in the manner to which it has been accustomed.

WI-73

WI-73



appearance of home in 1912 when
Mabel and Ira Disharoon
moved in

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Liber JTT No. 12, Folio 393, Land Records of Wicomico County.
- 2 Mabel Disharoen had died in 1975 at the age of 93.
- 3 Liber EAT No. 83, Folio 473, Land Records of Wicomico County.
- 4 Bailey interview.
- 5 Sterling interview.
- 6 Bailey interview.
- 7 According to John Bailey, James Freeny's brother, George Freeny, was married to Gersa Bailey's sister.
- 8 Bailey interview.
- 9 Liber SPT No. 3, Folio 80, Land Records of Wicomico County.
- 10 Sterling interview.
- 11 Bailey telephone interview.
- 12 Liber TFJR No. 1, Folios 222 and 230, Land Records of Wicomico County, and Liber WP No. 5, Folio 327, Land Records of Somerset County.
- 13 Liber TFJR No. 1, Folio 22, Judicial Chancery Records of Wicomico County.
- 14 Sterling and Bailey interviews.
- 15 Bailey interview.
- 16 Elizabeth Fisk Clapp, et al., compilers, Maryland Gardens and Houses, p. 124.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

The Atlas of Wicomico, Somerset and Worcester Counties, Maryland. Philadelphia:
Lake, Griffing and Stevenson, 1877.

Interview with John and Frances Bailey in Quantico, 10/15/75.

Interview by telephone with Lillian Bounds Bailey, 11/11/75.

Interview with Peggy and T.R. Sterling in Quantico, 10/25/75.

Land Records of Somerset County, State of Maryland, Somerset County Courthouse
in Princess Anne, Maryland.

and and Judicial Chancery Records of Wicomico County, State of Maryland, Wicomico
County Courthouse in Salisbury, Maryland.

Maryland Gardens and Houses, compiled by Elizabeth Fisk Clapp, Charlton Merrick

Gillet and Romaine McI. Randall. Baltimore: The Barton-Gillett Company, 1938.





WI-73

DISTRICT HOUSE AND GARDENS
QUANTICO, MICHIGAN COUNTY, MD
NORTHWEST CORNER - 1

10/93, 1st DISTRICT, NORTHWEST CORNER -
VEG. / MD HISTORICAL TRUST



W1-73

DISMANTLED HOUSE & GARAGE
QUINTON, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD.

SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

(1973) PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER

NEC/MD HISTORICAL TRUST



VI-73

DISHARVEST HOUSE & GARDEN
QUANTICO, WICOMICO COUNTY, MD
GREENEN RIVER POND

10/93, PAUL TOWNES, PHOTOGRAPHER
MIDLAND HISTORICAL TRUST